

#### **4VAC15-40-285**

#### **Game: In General: Unauthorized feeding of cervids.**

##### **Summary:**

The proposal is to prohibit feeding of cervids in cities and towns within designated counties that are within 25 miles of a confirmed detection of Chronic Wasting Disease.

##### **Proposed language of amendment:**

#### **4VAC15-40-285. Unauthorized feeding of cervids.**

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to place or distribute food, salt, minerals, or similar substances to feed or attract cervids (i) at any time in the Counties (including the cities and towns within) of Buchanan, Dickenson, Wise, and in any county (including the cities and towns within) designated by the department within 25 miles of a confirmed detection of Chronic Wasting Disease; (ii) during any deer or elk season within any county, city, or town that allows deer or elk hunting; and (iii) from September 1 through the first Saturday in January, both dates inclusive, elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

B. Any food, salt, minerals, or similar substances placed or distributed to feed or attract cervids prior to September 1 must be completely removed by September 1, and any area where food, salt, minerals, or similar substances were placed or distributed to feed or attract cervids shall be considered to be baited for 10 days following the complete removal of the items listed in this subsection.

C. Upon written notification by department personnel, no person shall continue to place or distribute any food, salt, mineral, or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the attraction of or feeding of cervids. After such notification, such person shall be in violation of this section if the placing, distribution, or presence of such food, salt, minerals, or similar substances continues.

D. No part of this regulation shall be construed to restrict bona fide agronomic plantings (including wildlife food plots), bona fide distribution of food to livestock, or wildlife management activities conducted or authorized by the department.

##### **Rationale:**

It was an oversight to exclude cities and towns in the year-round prohibition on feeding cervids within proximity to Chronic Wasting Disease detections. Feeding deer in cities and towns represent similar risks as feeding deer within the counties that surround them. CWD is an infectious disease of cervids that spreads readily through animal-to-animal contact and environmental contamination by the disease agent. Because CWD transmission can be enhanced when deer are concentrated at artificial feeding sites, it is critical to prevent the placement of food, minerals, or salt in an expansive area surrounding an area known to be infected with the disease.